

What is claimed is:

1. An audio/video (A/V) system comprising:

one or more function-extending modules, each function-extending module capable of sending and receiving A/V data and storing control information for the function-extending module;

a module rack into which the function-extending modules are detachably inserted; and

a base module for receiving the control information from the function-extending modules mounted in the module rack, displaying the control information, and, if a user input according to the displayed control information is received, sending the user input to a corresponding function-extending module and reproducing source A/V data provided by the function-extending module in response to the sent user input.

2. The A/V system of claim 1, wherein each function-extending module stores an index page as control information and the base module has a browser for displaying a main page in which selection information for the function-extending modules is displayed, requesting an index page to a function-extending module selected through the main page, displaying the requested index page, and sending a user input, which is input through the index page, to the selected function-extending module.

3. The A/V system of claim 2, wherein the selection information is provided from the function-extending modules and display in the main page.

4. The A/V system of claim 2, wherein the function-extending module comprises:

a communications interface unit for communicating with the base module;

a memory unit for storing an Internet protocol (IP) address and the index page;

a signal processing unit for processing source A/V data; and

a control unit for providing the IP address and index page to the base module, and controlling the function-extending module so that source A/V data,

which is processed by the signal processing unit in response to a user input received by the base module, is sent to the base module through the communications interface unit.

5     5.     The AV system of claim 4, wherein the communications interface unit is an IEEE1394 interface unit, and the signal processing unit has a transport stream processing unit for converting the AV data into an MPEG transport stream and outputting the MPEG transport stream to the IEEE1394 interface unit.

10    6.     The AV system of claim 4, wherein the base module comprises:  
a memory unit storing the browser;  
a control unit for receiving the IP address from the function-extending module inserted into the module rack and activating the browser;  
a user input unit for receiving a user input to the browser;  
15     a signal processing unit for dividing the source AV data received through the communications interface unit into audio data and video data and processing respective data;  
an audio output unit for outputting audio data processed by the signal processing unit; and  
20     a video output unit for outputting video data processed by the signal processing unit.

25    7.     The AV system of claim 6, wherein the signal processing unit further has a mixing unit for making image data or text data overlap with video data and outputting the overlapped data to the video processing unit.

8.     The AV system of claim 6, wherein the communications interface is an IEEE1394 interface unit.

30    9.     The AV system of claim 6, wherein the function-extending module is one of a digital broadcast receiving module, a digital satellite broadcast receiving module, a cable broadcast receiving module, a digital versatile video (DVD) module, a digital

video cassette recorder (DVCR) module, a game module, an Internet access module, a hard disc drive module, and a combination of at least two among these modules.

10. The AV system of claim 1, wherein the function-extending module  
5 comprises:

a communications interface unit for communicating with the base module;  
a memory unit for storing an IP address and an index page as the control  
information; and

a control unit for providing the IP address and index page to the base  
10 module and controlling the function-extending module so that source AV data in  
response to a user input received by the base module is sent to the base module  
through the communications interface unit.

11. The AV system of claim 10, wherein the source AV data is stored in the  
15 memory unit.

12. The AV system of claim 10, wherein the communications interface unit is an  
IEEE1394 communications interface module.

13. The AV system of claim 10, wherein the function-extending module and the  
20 base module adopt a TCP/IP protocol for client-server communications.

14. A function-extending module, which is detachably inserted into a module  
rack so that the function-extending module communicates with a base module  
25 capable of reproducing AV data, the function-extending module capable of sending  
and receiving the AV data, storing control information for controlling the function-  
extending module, and, if inserted into the module rack, providing the control  
information to the base module and sending source AV data corresponding to a  
user input, which is received from the base module, to the base module.

15. The function-extending module of claim 14, wherein an index page is stored  
as the control information in the function-extending module, and the base module  
has a browser for displaying a main page, in which selection information for the

function-extending modules is displayed, requesting an index page to a function-extending module selected through the main page displaying the index page, and sending a user input, which is input through the index page, to the selected function-extending module.

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16. The function-extending module of claim 15, wherein the function-extending module comprises:

a communications interface unit for communicating with the base module;

a memory unit for storing an IP address and an index page as the control

10 information; and

a control unit for providing the IP address and index page to the base module, and controlling the function-extending module so that source A/V data in response to a user input received from the base module, is sent to the base module through the communications interface unit.

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17. The function-extending module of claim 16, wherein the source A/V data is stored in the memory unit.

18. The function-extending module of claim 16, wherein the communications

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19. The function-extending module of claim 16, wherein the function-extending module is one of a digital broadcast receiving module, a digital satellite broadcast receiving module, a cable broadcast receiving module, a digital versatile video (DVD) module, a digital video cassette recorder (DVCR) module, a game module, an Internet access module, a hard disc drive module, and a combination of at least two among these modules.

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